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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/747,763	12/29/2003	Hans-Peter Keller	4836-000003	9099
27572	7590	04/20/2006	EXAMINER	
HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C. P.O. BOX 828 BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI 48303			SAN MARTIN, EDGARDO	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2837	

DATE MAILED: 04/20/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/747,763	KELLER ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Edgardo San Martin	2837	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 2 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 December 2003.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.                    2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 1-19 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
  1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>11/17/04</u> .	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Ex-Parte Quayle***

1. This application is in condition for allowance except for the following formal matters:

#### ***Specification***

A. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

- In the Abstract, the first line is redundant;
- In the Specification, the headings of the different sections of the specification are missing.

Appropriate correction is required.

#### ***Claim Objections***

B. Claims 1 – 19 are objected to because of the following informalities:

- In all the claims, the use of the phrase “and/or” render the claims indefinite, since it is not clear whether the limitations are to be considered in combination or in the alternative;
- In all the claims, all the occurrences of “the non-woven fabric (1)” should be changed to - - the first non-woven fabric (1) - -, and all the occurrences of “the non-woven fabric (2)” should be changed to - - the second non-woven fabric (2) - -;

- In all the claims, all the occurrences of “characterized in that” should be change to - - wherein - - to better comply with the US patent claim format practice;
- In claim 1, the examiner considers that it is inconsistent where the claim established a total thickness of the sound absorber to be within the range of 12 to 30 mm (in line 10) and it established wherein the second non-woven fabric have a thickness within a range of 10 to 100 mm (in line 7), which clearly fall outs of the maximum range when combined with the thickness range of the first non-woven fabric that is 2 to 15 mm (in line 4);
- In claim 1, the examiner considers that it is inconsistent where the claim established a total weight per surface area of the sound absorber within a range of 0.5 to 3 kg/m<sup>2</sup> (in line 11) and it established wherein the first non-woven fabric have a weight per surface area of 0.1 to 5 kg/m<sup>2</sup> (in line 5), which clearly falls out of the maximum range when combined with the weight per surface area range of the second non-woven fabric that is 0.5 to 1 kg/m<sup>2</sup> (in line 9);
- Claims 13 – 17, should be rewritten as independent claims and including all the limitations of claim 1;
- Claim 16 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate of claim 15. When two claims in an application are duplicates or else are so close in content that they both cover the

same thing, despite a slight difference in wording, it is proper after allowing one claim to object to the other as being a substantial duplicate of the allowed claim. See MPEP § 706.03(k).

Appropriate correction is required.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

2. Claims 1 – 19 are allowed.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

- The references of the Prior Art of record fail to teach, or suggest any obvious combination of the limitations describing the particular combination of **(With respect to claim 1)** a sound absorber consisting of two interconnected non-woven fabrics bonded through thermoplastic or thermoset materials wherein each of the non-woven fabrics contain the specific combination of physical properties as described in claim 1.

***Conclusion***

3. The attached hereto PTO Form 892 lists prior art made of record that the Examiner considered it pertinent to applicant's disclosure.
4. Prosecution on the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for reply to this action is set to expire **TWO MONTHS** from the mailing date of this letter.

***Contact Information***

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edgardo San Martin whose telephone number is (571) 272-2074. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00AM - 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula Bradley can be reached on (571) 272-2800 ext.33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Edgardo San Martín  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2837  
Class 181  
April 15, 2006